(c) the action Government have taken against the officials involved in the irregularities and the estimated loss suffered by these hospitals as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, no irregularity has been reported in the matter of purchase of machines and consumables, drugs and other imported equipments in these hospitals during the last one year.

Use of herbal medicines

†1287. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent report by the World Health Organisation, 80 per cent of the world population depends on herbal medicinal system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have started a Central Medicinal Plant Development and Agriculture Scheme;

(c) whether Medicinal Plant Board has been constituted at national level;

(d) if so, the names of the members of this Board; and

(e) by when, it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Government is not aware of any Report of World Health Organisation which indicates dependence of 80% of World's population on herbal medicinal system.

(b) Government have introduced a scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants which includes subsidy of 30% subject to a maximum of Rs. 9.00 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The National Medicinal Plants Board has been established on 24.11.2000 under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister with MOS (H&FW) as Vice-Chairperson and the following members:—

(i) Secretary, Department of AYUSH; Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests; Secretary, Deptt. of Scientific and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Industrial Research; Secretary, Deptt. ofl Bio-Tech; Secretary, Deptt. of Science and Technology; Secretary, Deptt. of Commerce; Secretary, Deptt. of IP&P; Secretary, Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation; Secretary, Deptt. of Agricultural Research and Education and Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs as *ex-officio* members.

(ii) Four nominated members having expertise in the field of medicoethnobotany; pharmaceutical industry of ISM; marketing and trade; legal matters and patents.

(iii) Four nominated members representing exporters of AYUSH drug, NGOs responsible for creating awareness and increasing availability of medicinal plants, growers of medicinal plants, research and development industry group in the area of medicinal plants.

(iv) Two nominated members representing federation/co-operatives dealing with medicinal plants.

(v) One member from Research Councils of Department of AYUSH, one members from PLIM/HPL, Ghaziabad and two members representing State Governments (by rotation every two years)

(vi) Chief Executive Officer and Member-Secretary in the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

(e) The Board started functioning *w.e.f.* financial year 2001-2002.

Cataract control

1288. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cataract Blindness Control Programme was launched to eliminate Cataract cases in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of patients; operated and success ratio during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03, district-wise; and

(c) the period for which the scheme would continue to clear the backlog?